LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original)   A simulation process, comprising:

receiving a message from a system;

comparing the received message to information stored in a response file used to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a message marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with each message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

simulating a response to the system message by outputting a response stored in association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the received message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least two responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

2.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process occurs within the system.

3.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process occurs within a device separate from, but operatively connected to the system.

4.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is output a predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

5.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is periodically output irrespective of a received message.

6.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

7.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, further comprising:

storing a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second time, either a second response stored in association with the received message is output, or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in association with the received message.

8.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 7, wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message.

9.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message.

10.   (Original)   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file is created using a log file of the system.

11.   (Original)   A simulator, comprising:

a memory, adapted to store a response file, the response file being used to simulate system response and including at least one message, a message marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with each message, and

an end-of-response marker associated with each response;

a comparator, adapted to compare a message received from a system to information stored in the response file to determine whether or not the received message matches a message stored in the response file; and

an output device adapted to simulate a response to the system message, upon determining that a received message matches a message stored in the response file, by outputting a response stored in association with the matching stored message,

wherein upon at least two responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

12.   (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is located within the system.

13.   (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is separate from but operatively connected to the system.

14.   (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the memory, includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is output a predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

15. (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the memory, includes at least one autonomous response which is periodically output, irrespective of a received message.

16. (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the memory, includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one response. ·

17. (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the memory further stores a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second time, either a second response stored in association with the received message is output, or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in association with the received message.

18. (Original)   The simulator of claim 17, wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

19. (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

20. (Original)   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file is created using a log file of the system.

21.   (Original)   An article of manufacture for use in conjunction with a computer, comprising:

a first computer readable code segment for causing a computer to compare a message received from a system to information stored in a response file used to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a message marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with each message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

a second computer readable code segment for causing a computer to simulate a response to the system message by outputting a response stored in association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the received message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least two responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

22.   (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer of the system.

23.   (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer separate from, but operatively connected to the system.

24.   (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response a predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

25.　(Original)　The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response periodically, irrespective of the received message.

26.　(Original)　The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

27.　(Original) The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising:

a third computer readable code segment for causing the computer to store a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second time, either a second response stored in association with the received message is output, or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in association with the received message.

28.　(Original)　The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message.

29.　(Original)　The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein sequential responses stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon successive receipt of the common message.

30.　(Original)　The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the response file is created using a log file of the system.